



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEWS RELEASE

City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

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Mayor breaks ground for new fire station in Lake City

Newly upgraded and remodeled fire station re-opens in Northgate

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels today celebrated the beginning of construction of the new Fire Station 39 in Lake City. Also earlier this week, the mayor celebrated the completion of the seismic upgrade and remodel of Fire Station 31 in Northgate.

The projects are part of the Fire Levy program, the biggest undertaking in the last 40 years to upgrade, replace and modernize fire stations.

“Thanks to Seattle voters, we’re bringing Seattle’s fire and emergency response system into the 21st century,” said Nickels. “This is another step in making Seattle the most prepared city in the nation.”

The current Fire Station 39, located at 12705 30th Ave. N.E., houses Engine 39. In 2008, Engine 39 went on nearly 2,500 alarms.

Built in 1949, the station does not meet current seismic code and is too small to accommodate modern firefighting equipment and operations. The new station, designed to withstand an earthquake safely, will be built to the “immediate occupancy” standard.

The new station, sited on city property directly west of the current station, will be three times as large as the current station, expanding from 3,200 square feet to 10,635 square feet.

“We can’t stop the next earthquake or storm from striking Seattle, but we can be prepared to save lives, protect property and pull ourselves up after a disaster,” Nickels said.

Miller Hull Partnership designed the \$8.4 million project, which will be built by Howard S. Wright Constructors.

The building design reflects the city’s commitment to sustainability. Rainwater will be collected on the roof, channeled to a 7,100 gallon underground cistern, and used to flush toilets and for irrigation of the plantings. The station is designed to use at least 40 percent less potable water than a conventional fire station. The energy model predicts a 14 percent reduction in annual energy use over a standard fire station.

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Other sustainable strategies include daylight access for at least 75 percent of the spaces and a bio-swale to slow down and filter storm water. The project is targeting LEED Silver certification.

Stephen Glassman, an artist from Los Angeles, is fabricating a sculpture specifically designed for the site as part of the 1% for Art program.

In 2003, Seattle voters approved the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy, which was designed with lessons learned from the Nisqually earthquake, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and the 1995 Kobe earthquake, among others.

The \$167 million levy is helping Seattle make tremendous progress on getting prepared, including:

- Rebuilding or upgrading 32 neighborhood fire stations to better withstand earthquakes and ensure that the city's emergency responders are available to help when they are needed most.
- Re-opening the seismically upgraded/improved Fire Station 31 in Northgate in April 2009.
- Opening the city's new state-of-the-art Fire Station 10, Fire Alarm Center, and Emergency Operations Center, located in a 60,333 square foot complex, in 2008.
- Adding two new fireboats, the flagship Leschi, delivered last year, and the smaller fire and rescue boat, Engine 1, which went into service in 2006. Renovating the Chief Seattle fireboat.
- Creating a new Joint Training Facility for firefighters that opened in 2007.
- Providing an emergency water supply for fighting fires. Hardened hydrants at city reservoirs allow firefighters to draw water directly from reservoirs in an emergency.
- Placing emergency supply caches at four locations around Seattle.
- Installing emergency generators at six community centers.

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